

Testimony-House Commerce Committee
In Support of HB 4163-Smokefree Air
Michelle Thurman
June 12, 2007

Good morning Representatives. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for House Bill 4163. My name is Michelle Thurman. I, with Dino Ciccarella and others, co-own Club 22, a bar in Shelby Township.

We opened the club in 2006 and are packed most Friday and Saturday nights. While we enjoy the right to make most decisions for our business, we are happy to comply with laws that protect the health and safety of our staff and patrons.

We have struggled with the issue of allowing smoking in our establishment. We know that ventilation systems do not work. We would love to make our club smokefree but are afraid of losing business if we implemented such a policy on our own. Doing so would be risky for a new business like ours, especially in Michigan's current economy. We believe that if every bar was required by law to be smokefree that business would not be lost due to the level playing field the law would create.

78 percent of people in Michigan do not smoke. That leads me to believe that nonsmokers, that might normally avoid a night out because they don't want to breathe secondhand smoke, would go out more often if all bars were smokefree.

30 other states are smokefree. My husband and I travel often, including to smokefree states like New York, Florida, and Arizona. Bar business seems to be booming there and the bars all have systems in place to allow smokers to step outside to smoke and reenter without problem.

Please vote "YES" for House Bill 4163. Make all Michigan bars smokefree!

Thank you for your time.